among other things recommended enactment of a Law on Freedom of Information, and Amendment to Section 5 of Official Secrets Act, 1923 in order to remove- its omnibus character.

**Air Crashes involving IAF trainee pilots**

*116. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the number of air crashes involving trainee Indian Air Force pilots has increased; if so, the number of such crashes occurred during last five years indicating the number of casualties thereon;

(b) what is the cost involved in training an Indian pilot and the details of facilities including insurance cover at present available;

(c) when were such facilities revised last; and

(d) what are the reasons for nonpayment of compensation to the kith and kin of a pilot died in August, 1996 as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated the 7th July, 1997, and by when the same would be paid?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details of cost of training and also the facilities available to the trainee pilots as currently prevalent in 1997 are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. *{See* below).

(d) Except ex-gratia award of Rs. 375/- per month, the dealth benefits have been sanctioned to the next-of-kin of the deceased cadet (Fit Ctd Sunil Kumar). Monthly ex-gratia award will be sanctioned on receipt of requisite dependency documents from the father of the deceased cadet.

**Statement**

*Details of cost of training and facilities to trainee pilots*

The training cost per pilot at 1997-98 level for each of the substreams is as given below:—

(i) Fighter Stream Rs. 5.68 crores
(ii) Transport Stream Rs. 2.48 crores (iii) Helicopter Stream Rs. 1.65 crores

2. Pilot trainees of the IAF are made members of the Air Force Group Insurance Scheme (AFGIS) from the date of joining the Training institute and effective from 1.5.1997 are provided with life insurance cover of Rs. 10 lakhs with monthly contribution of Rs. 800/- and Rs. 560/- for aircrew and ground duty branches, respectively.

3. In addition the following ex-gratia awards are authorised by the Government.

(a) Lumpsum ex-gratia award of Rs. 45,000/-

(b) Ex-gratia award on monthly basis @ Rs. 375/- per month (excluding Dearness relief and Interim relief which is paid separately thereon).

**Setting up of a Technology Mission for Cotton Development**

*117. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a technology mission for cotton development in the country to improve cotton production, marketing, processing etc;

(b) whether such a mission is proposed to be set up in Gujarat which is the largest cotton growing State in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (d) the Government in the Ministry of Agriculture proposes to set up a technology mission for cotton development to address the problems of low productivity of cotton and related issues like marketing, ginning and pressing etc. in a coordinated & focussed manner in the cotton growing States. Details of the Mission are being worked out.

**Telephone Lok Adalats in Gujarat**

*118. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telephone Lok Adalats have been held in Gujarat Telecom Circle during the last three years;

(b) if so, the district-wise details thereof; and

(c) the number of complaints attended to and settled in each year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) The Department of Telecommunications does not hold telephone Lok Adalats. However, Telephone Adalats are conducted by a three member-bench comprising Senior Officers of the Department of Telecommunications in the Telecom Districts, as per the directions given by DOT Head Quarters.

The details regarding the Telephone Adalats held in the last three years in Gujarat Telecom Circle, are given in the

Annexure. *(See* Appendix 181, Annexure No. 24)

**Central Fund to Indira Gandhi Nahar Project**

*119. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

whether Government are aware that implementation of Indira Gandhi Nahar Project (I.G.N.P.) over the years has suffered due to paucity of funds and that canal works can be completed by the year 2005 only if the Central assistance during 1997-98 and in the Ninth Plan is enhanced adequately so as to match with the State Plan allocation for the project; and

(b) if so, what additional Central assistance ^or I.G.N.P. has so far been decided to be given so as to enable the State to complete this important irrigation project expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Indira Gandhi Nahar Project was taken up by Rajasthan under State Plan in the year 1958 and paucity of funds is one of the most important reasons for delay in its implementation.

Irrigation being a State Subject under the constitution, the responsibility for funding, execution and implementation of this project primarily rests with Rajasthan Government.

(b) However, Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 476.10 crores under Advance plan Assistance, Drought Relief Assistance, Border Area Development Programme and Additional Central Assistance was provided to Government of Rajasthan for this project till March, 1997. Central Government has allocated Rs. 60 crores under Border Area Development Programme (BADP) and Rs. 28 crores loan under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme to Rajasthan during the year 1997-98 for early completion of this project.